

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04175 111100Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 110900Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9987

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4175

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINS, LE, US

SUBJECT: FRANGIE

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS JUST RETURNED FROM KFOUR WHERE HE SAW FRANGIE. HE FOUND FRANGIE MOROSE AND UNHAPPY. FRANGIE TOLD HIM HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT RESIGN UNTIL SECURITY IS RESTORED. FRANGIE FAMILY EVEN BLUNTER, SAYING SARKIS IS "A LITTLE BOY" AND THEREFORE FRANGIE MUST STAY ON TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP. MRS. FRANGIE WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY SARKIS SHOULD MOVE TO JOUNIEH AND SET UP OFFICE IN THE TOWN HALL SO AS TO PROVE HIMSELF A TRUE MARONITE.

2. AMBASSADOR PRESSED ON FRANGIE THE IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION HE WAS PUTTING SARKIS INTO. THERE WOULD BE NO CENTRAL AUTHORITY IF FRANGIE STAYED AND TRIED TO RUN SARKIS AND THE GOVERNMENT FROM KFOUR.

3. AMBASSADOR ALSO SAID IT OBVIOUS THAT MARONITES ARE VERY DISAPPOINTED IN US. THEY HAD EXPECTED MUCH MORE, ESPECIALLY IN THE MILITARY/SECURITY FIELD.

4. FOLLOWING INCIDENT ILLUSTRATES TENOR OF THEIR THINKING. THE AMBASSADOR WAS BERATED BECAUSE GISCARD D'ESTAING HAD SENT A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION TO SARKIS.

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5. I AM NOT RPT NOT SURE HOW GRAVE THIS IS. WE HEAR
THAT THE PHALANGE WILL PUSH HIM OUT IN A FEW DAYS. BUT IF
THAT DOES NOT WORK AND HE IS STILL AROUND NEXT WEEK, I
THINK WE SHOULD ORGANIZE A PRESSURE CAMPAIGN, PERHAPS
LETTING SYRIANS AND SAUDIS TAKE THE LEAD WITH US FOLLOWING
UP ACCOMPANIED PERHAPS BYNFRENCH AND VATICAN. MEANWHILE,
MURPHY MIGHT BE INSTRUCTED TO TELL SYRIANS THAT WE ARE NOT
RPT NOT ENCOURAGING FRANGIE TO STAY AND THAT OUR POLICY IS
JUST THE REVERSE.
BROWN

SECRET

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